

Message Text

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62

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 124376

R 031100Z JUL 74

FM AMCMNSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2746

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: SILVINO SILVERIO MARQUES, ANGOLA'S NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

1. SEVERAL ENCOUNTERS WITH NEW GOVGEN CAUSE ME TO REVISE EARLIER CHARACTERIZATION ABOUT SILVINO SILVERIO MARQUES (LUANDA 0424).

2. GOVGEN GIVES IMPRESSION OF A MAN IN COMPLETE POSSESSION OF HIMSELF, AND WITH CLEAR IDEA OF DIRECTION HE INTENDS TO TAKE ANGOLA. HE ADMITTED TO ME IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT HE IS POLITICALLY RATHER CONSERVATIVE, AND UNAPOLOGETIC ABOUT "MANY ASPECTS" OF OLD REGIME, INCLUDING GENUINE EFFORTS IN PAST TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL LEVELS OF NATIVES WITHIN MULTIRACIAL PORTUGUESE FRAMEWORK. (HIS LANGUAGE REFLECTS HIS VIEWS: HE REFERS FOR EXAMPLE TO "PORTUGUESE, WHETHER WHITE OR BLACK.")

3. HE IS FAR FROM THE PASSIVE, REPRESSED INDIVIDUAL I REMEMBER FROM 1964, OR THE INEFFECTUAL REPUTATION HE HAD UP TO 1966 IN LISBON. ON CONTRARY, HE NOW REFLECTS DYNAMISM, ENERGY, AND GREAT SELF-CONFIDENCE. HE IS OVERJOYED AND FEELS VINDICATED TO HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO PROVE HIS CAPACITY AS GOVERNOR, AFTER HIS UNCEREMONIOUS DEPARTURE EIGHT YEARS AGO.

4. SILVERIO MARQUES WILL NEED TO COMMUNICATE THIS ENTHUSIASM TO
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THE LUANDA COMMUNITY QUICKLY, HOWEVER, TO OVERCOME THE FEELING OF

RUDDERLESSNESS STILL PREVAILING HERE, TO WHICH OVER-LEISURELY
PACE OF FORMATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT HAS UNFORTUNATELY CONTRIBUTED.
(SEE SEPTTEL).

5. COVGEN SEEMS TO BE GENUINELY WELL-DISPOSED TOWARDS FOREIGN
RESIDENTS HERE, INCLUDING THE AMERICANS.
BRIGGS

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NNN

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